

Belgium, until a U.S. visa arrived in March of 1940. The family left for the United States just before the Nazis invaded Belgium. With much persistence and against all odds, the Salmon family joined a small group of German Jewish refugees on Staten Island. To support his family Paul became a door-to-door salesman and went into the import-export business.

Egon attended New Dorp High School on Staten Island and was drafted into the U.S. Army upon graduating. He trained for combat duty in South Carolina and was granted U.S. citizenship before being sent overseas to North Africa and then to Naples, Italy, in 1943. Egon served in the U.S. Army in the Italian Campaign until 1945, overcoming great prejudices against Germans and Jews in his unit. He was placed in a unit that occupied Austria for nine months, using his ability to speak German to benefit his new country. He was awarded the combat infantry badge and three battle stars for his service.

After he returned to Staten Island, Egon joined his father's business and then established Salmon Real Estate in 1956, which continues to operate to this day. Egon served as president of the Staten Island Board of Realtors and was a New York City Tax Commissioner. With his wife Marie, a native Staten Islander, Egon took an active role in the Jewish Community Center of Staten Island. In 2016, Egon and Marie established the Egon J. Salmon and Family Commemoration of Kristallnacht and the *St. Louis* at Wagner College in New York to strengthen Staten Island's first Holocaust Center and to remind those of all faiths in his beloved borough to "Never Forget."

The story of Egon Salmon and his family is the epitome of the American dream. He fled persecution in search of a better life and sacrificed for his new home in the United States Army. He gave back to his community by starting a business and creating jobs, and his family continues to serve our community to this day. So Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in commending Egon Salmon and his family and thank them for their heroism and service to the United States.

CONGRATULATING INDIANA'S
FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S
NEWEST CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate twenty-five individuals who will take their oaths of citizenship on November 1, 2019. This memorable occasion will be held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a

better opportunity for success than here in America.

On November 1, 2019, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Vilma Aguilar, Ekaterina Shouldice, Ana Maria Bowie, Rosa Martha Perez Elizalde, Meguila Sesante Alvarez, Damilare Mustapha Jimoh, Felipe Briseno, Ivonett Alejandra Suarez, Alfredo H. Luna, Zarish Raza, Elena Alexandrovna Burtseva, Ivonne Cecilia Rocha, Connor MacDonald McCoy, Elena Anceveski, Francine Ingabire, Ahmad Haisam Zarzour, Alexander Donghui Lee, Maria Asuncion Mansilla, Nyamar Chan Nhial, Arnulfo Loera, Vincent Balinda, Zulema Lisette Lee, Paul Edward Nyongani, Robenson Petit Bien, and Payal Dilipbhai Patel.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country "... of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who will become citizens of the United States of America on November 1, 2019. They, too, will be American citizens, guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

CONGRATULATING THE CHAMBER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate the Gettysburg Chamber of Commerce of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on the occasion of its 100th annual meeting.

In September of 1918, Gettysburg businessman Roy Funkhouser organized a group of local businessmen to support economic development in Gettysburg, commencing the service of the Chamber of Commerce. In the past century, the chamber has expanded its reach to serve the entirety of Adams County.

Throughout its history, the Gettysburg Chamber of Commerce has led and supported important projects. From helping to establish a county library in 1931 to supporting the victims of Hurricane Andrew and commencing Adams County's Small Business Appreciation week tradition, the membership of the chamber has made a lasting legacy in our region.

With more than 600 members, the Gettysburg Chamber of Commerce is a strong advocate for entrepreneurs and the workforce of Adams County. It is my privilege to represent the chamber in the U.S. House of Representa-

tives, and I congratulate the leaders and members of the chamber upon this outstanding achievement.

EDUCATING MEDICAL PROFES-
SIONALS AND OPTIMIZING
WORKFORCE EFFICIENCY AND
READINESS FOR HEALTH ACT OF
2019

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2781, the "EMPOWER for Health Act of 2019."

H.R. 2781 reauthorizes funding at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for health professions workforce, education, and training programs.

This legislation expands efforts to increase diversity, improve geriatrics education and training, and grow the pediatric health care workforce.

The legislation also creates a new authorization of \$5 million to increase workforce diversity in the professions of physical therapy, occupational therapy, audiology, and speech-language pathology.

By 2032, the United States may face a shortage of over 100,000 physicians; If health care access were equitable across race, health insurance coverage, and geographic location, we would require almost 100,000 more physicians today.

Groups such as the National Black Nurses Association have been advocating for a more diverse workforce to ensure access to the highest quality of healthcare for persons of color.

The Kinder Institute at Rice University in Houston has determined that the greater Houston area is becoming increasingly diverse.

The Kinder Institute noted that in 2010, the Houston metropolitan area became the nation's most racially/ethnically diverse large metropolitan area in the nation.

While the largest growth has been among Latinos, other racial/ethnic groups in the metropolitan region have also either increased or remained the same.

This growth and expanding racial/ethnic diversity can bring social, economic and health system challenges that exacerbate disparities.

Efforts to increase diversity in the work force will lead to more respect and understanding, more creativity and innovation, less of a language barrier and social challenges, and an overall better patient outcome and satisfaction.

This act will ensure that patients in Harris County and around the country have access to skilled physicians and medical professionals—regardless of where they live.

By reauthorizing key Title VII funding, it will increase access to physicians and other providers in underserved areas, and promote training opportunities for physicians to maintain and improve their skills.

I applaud Rep. SCHAKOWSKY for introducing this legislation to help to better support the health of the citizens of the United States.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2781 to amend title

VII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to the health professions workforce, and for other purposes.

RECOGNIZING DR. MATTHEW C. WINKLEMAN OF HARRISBURG, IL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Matthew C. Winkelman of Harrisburg, Illinois for having been honored with the Distinguished Service Award by the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Winkelman received this prestigious award because of his long-standing dedication to providing outstanding primary care. Dr. Winkelman's focus on expanding access to health care to Southern Illinois over the past decades has ensured that quality care has always been available to those in need. Established by Dr. Winkelman, the Primary Care Group of Harrisburg, which has since evolved to become SIH Medical Primary Care Group Harrisburg, is among his many initiatives designed to ensure high-quality primary care. Especially important to this goal has been the successful recruitment of other dedicated physicians to the clinic.

Dr. Winkelman's focus on primary care has led him to host medical students from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine to expose them to the need and opportunity which family medicine offers. Several students have followed Dr. Winkelman's example and themselves gone into rural family medicine.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I stand to recognize Dr. Winkelman for his leadership in health care in Southern Illinois. His dedication to this cause has benefited thousands, and I am pleased that he has been selected by the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians to receive their 2019 Distinguished Service Award.

IN HONOR OF ARMY SPECIALIST JOHN W. ODIERNO OF FARMINGDALE

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Army Specialist 4th Class John W. Odierno of Farmingdale, New York. Even at a young age, Specialist Odierno was compelled to defend others, protecting his family, friends and even his little brother in the school yard. However, when Specialist Odierno was drafted during the Vietnam War, his call to defend others transitioned from the schoolyard to the battlefield.

On March 21, 1967, while serving as squad leader during a search and destroy mission in the central highlands of Kon Tum Province, Specialist Odierno and his company were met with intense machine gun and rifle fire from an entrenched North Vietnamese battalion. Specialist Odierno and his company found themselves trapped and outnumbered.

Despite being wounded, Specialist Odierno defended his position for twenty minutes, al-

lowing his fellow soldiers to reload their weapons. While this action saved the lives of many soldiers, it cost Specialist Odierno his own.

At only twenty years old; Specialist Odierno made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his fellow soldiers and our great nation, but his spirit and grit did not fall on the battlefield that day. The men who witnessed his heroic actions continue to tell the story of selflessness and bravery, including Lieutenant Toby Alvaro, who believes Specialist Odierno should not only have received the Silver Star, but the Medal of Honor for his actions.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Specialist Odierno's service and sacrifice, ensuring that when a servicemember falls in defense of our great country, our entire nation stands in honor.

HONORING GARY BATTON, CHIEF OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA, FOR RECEIVING THE GLOBAL CITIZEN AWARD FROM HAPPY WORLD FOUNDATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow Oklahoman and Native American, Gary Batton, for receiving the Global Citizen Award from the Happy World Foundation.

After receiving a bachelor's degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 1989, he accepted the position of Deputy Director of the Choctaw Nation Housing Authority. He then went on to serve his tribe as Executive Director of health and later appointed Assistant Chief in 2007. On April 28, 2014, Gary Batton became the 47th Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Through his career, Chief Batton has represented the Choctaw Nation and the State of Oklahoma through numerous national boards and committees. Currently, he serves on the Oklahoma Hall of Fame Board, the State Chamber of Oklahoma Board, the Texoma Medical Center Board of Directors, among other roles.

As a proud Oklahoman and member of the Chickasaw Nation, I have always been passionate about advocating on behalf of Native Americans here in Washington, D.C. Therefore, I am very grateful that there are Oklahomans like Gary Batton who have committed themselves to promoting Native American heritage. He has rightfully earned recognition for his role as an ambassador for Native Americans, and I hope that he continues his great work in the years to come.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Dennis Gary Batton and his lifelong work to promote and preserve Native American culture.

IN HONOR OF KAYLA MUELLER

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize Kayla Mueller, a courageous, selfless individual who died at the hands of

the ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Just recently, the United States government conducted a secret mission that led to the ISIS leader's demise. Fittingly, the mission was named after Kayla to let the world know, she did not die in vain.

Kayla was a brave missionary and activist hailing from my district, specifically Prescott, Arizona. She was dedicated to serving others through her humanitarian work, regardless of the danger. Her humanitarian work allowed her to provide medical assistance to individuals in Turkey which then led her to Aleppo, Syria. This is a region where most humanitarian workers would not go but Kayla was not like most people. En route to Aleppo, she was abducted, held captive, tortured, and eventually perished at the hands of al-Baghdadi. The mission that killed the ISIS leader was a historically destabilizing moment for ISIS. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi died a coward while Kayla Mueller died because of her courage and dedication to others. No one will forget her selflessness and her desire to positively impact the lives of many.

I congratulate the special forces unit that took down the depraved Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. It is my hope that Kayla's family finds comfort and peace knowing that justice has been served and that Kayla's memory will live in the hearts of Americans for years to come. We cannot take back what happened to Kayla. We can only hope that this mission and its righteous results honor her life and memory.

RECOGNIZING WINTERSET MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR 2019 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Winterset Middle School in Winterset, Iowa for receiving a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School Award.

The National Blue Ribbon School Award recognizes outstanding schools based on their educational environment, academic success, and closure of achievement gaps between student populations. Only four Iowa schools were chosen this year. Winterset Middle School serves just over 400 students in 4th through 6th grades. Under Principle Wendy Sawyer, the school was nominated for and won the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program as an Exemplary High Performing School.

Winterset Middle School prides themselves on their caring and supportive culture focused on student growth and development. Nine years ago when they first opened, Winterset Middle School was a "School in Need of Assistance". Just shy of a decade later, they've shown what hard work and dedication can do by winning this award and making us proud. The faculty's dedication to their profession and students has made them the exemplary school they are today. I am proud to be able to represent these teachers, educators, administrators, parents, and students in Iowa's 3rd District. The school attributes this hard-won victory to their close-knit community, research-based teaching strategies, and treating every child as their own—and I couldn't agree more.